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Flight readiness review for STS-118 sets launch date

◆ **Shuttle Update:** NASA managers have scheduled a news conference at Kennedy Space Center for no earlier than 3 p.m. today to discuss the status of the upcoming space shuttle mission. The news conference will begin after the conclusion of a flight readiness review. The review is a two-day, thorough assessment of preparations for shuttle Endeavour's mission, STS-118.

A number of key decisions about the flight will be announced, including the official launch date, currently targeted for Aug. 7 at 7:02 p.m.

Associate Administrator for Space Operations Bill Gerstenmaier, Space Shuttle Program Manager Wayne Hale and Space Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach are planning to participate.

The briefing will air live on NASA Television and the agency's Web site. For NASA TV streaming video and scheduling information, visit www.nasa.gov/ntv.

◆ **ISS Update:** The Expedition 15 crew had a light-duty day Tuesday following Monday's successful station reboost and a 7-hour, 41-minute spacewalk. During the spacewalk, Flight Engineer Clay Anderson jettisoned a 1,400 pound, refrigerator-size ammonia reservoir known as the early ammonia servicer by pushing it opposite of the station's direction of travel.

■ **STS-118 Mission Briefing** — All KSC and CCAFS employees are invited to attend an STS-118 mission briefing in the KSC Training Auditorium at 2 p.m. today. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Anderson and Commander Fyodor Yurchikhin also installed a television camera support or stanchion, reconfigured a power supply for an antenna assembly and performed get-ahead tasks.

■ **NASA Announces Next Undersea Exploration Mission Dates, Crew** — NASA will send three astronauts and a Constellation Program aerospace engineer into the ocean depths off the Florida coast from Aug. 6 to 15.

NASA veteran space flyer and astronaut Nicholas Patrick will lead the 10-day mission aboard the NOAA Aquarius Underwater Laboratory. NASA astronaut Richard Arnold, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Satoshi Furukawa and systems integration engineer Christopher Gerty complete the crew.

During the NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations 13, or NEEMO 13, the crew will conduct a variety of undersea "moon walks." They will test concepts for future lunar exploration using advanced navigation and communication equipment. During the extended undersea simulated moonwalks, the crew will construct a communications tower, practice techniques for lunar sample collection and manipulation, and perform a series of tasks investigating future spacesuit design. The crew also will participate in research designed to answer questions on the physiology and human behavior aspects of living in extreme environments.

■ **Electric Vehicle Demo** — A demonstration of a new electric vehicle from e-ride will be held on Friday. This vehicle can be seen near the Space Station Processing Facility cafeteria from

Expedition 15 crew works on station maintenance

■ **Did You Know?** Today is the 36th anniversary of the Apollo 15 launch. In 1971, astronauts David Scott, James Irwin and Al Worden made NASA's fourth successful lunar landing mission aboard the lunar module Falcon and the command service module Endeavour.

10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and at the front entry of the OSB 2 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. The designer and manufacturer will be available to answer questions. Contact Bruce Chesson in NASA Transportation at 867-8635 for details.

■ **National Space Club Florida Committee August Luncheon** — The National Space Club Florida Committee will hold its annual Lifetime Achievement Awards luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Aug. 14 at the DoubleTree Oceanfront Hotel and Conference Center in Cocoa Beach. Norris Gray, Jay Honeycutt and Charlie Murphy have been chosen for the honor. Contact LaDonna Neterer at ladonna.j.neterer@boeing.com or 321-505-2037 by Aug. 9 for reservations.

Tickets are \$17 for members and \$20 for non-members. Corporate tables are available for \$200. Join the National Space Club Florida Committee for \$25 at www.nscfl.com.

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